

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Standards Committee – 13 June 2024

Subject: Review of the Operation and Efficacy of the Member/Officer Relations Protocol

Report of: City Solicitor

Summary

This report provides an update to the Standards Committee on the operation and efficacy of the Member/Officer Relations Protocol.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to note the position set out in the report regarding the operation and efficacy of the Member/Officer Relations Protocol

Wards Affected: All

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

None

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Member/Officer Relations Protocol (“the Protocol”) is contained in Part 6 of the Council’s Constitution. Its purpose, as stated in paragraph 1.1 of the Protocol, is:

“...to guide Members and Officers of the Council in their relations with one another in such a way as to ensure the smooth running of the Council.”

Paragraph 1.4 goes on to say that the Protocol:

“...seeks to reflect the principles underlying the Code of Conduct for Members (“the Members’ Code”) and the Code of Conduct for Employees (“the Employees’ Code”). The shared object of these codes is to enhance and maintain the integrity (real and perceived) of local government and the Codes, therefore, demand very high standards of personal conduct.”

- 1.2 When the Council’s Constitution was last reviewed by the Council in May 2024 no changes were deemed necessary in respect of the Protocol other than to change the review date to annual review. A copy of the current version of the Protocol is appended to this report.

2.0 The View of the Monitoring Officer on the Operation and Efficacy of the Protocol

- 2.1 The Monitoring Officer is of the view that the existing Protocol is well understood by Members and is not aware of any queries or issues that have not been addressed through existing procedures.
- 2.2 The Member Induction Programme includes a session dealing with conduct and ethical standards issues, which includes a section on the Protocol. The induction process for Officers refers new staff to the Employee Code of Conduct, which in turn makes reference to the Protocol. Paragraphs 2.3 and 2.7 of the Protocol cover the situation where a Member wishes to raise issues about an Officer and the reverse scenario. The Monitoring Officer is of the view that the Protocol is working as intended and any issues have been resolved in accordance with the processes set out in these paragraphs of the Protocol.
- 2.3 The Monitoring Officer does not consider that any amendment of the Protocol is required at this time other than to update the review date.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The recommendation is set out at the beginning of this report.